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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: October 18, 1959

Subject: Western Summit Meeting

Participants: United States

United Kingdom

The Secretary
Mr. Kohler
Mr. Reinhardt

British Ambassador Harold Caccia
Lord Hood

Distribution:

Recategorized as
Category "A"

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The Secretary said that before he had received Sir Harold's note of today's date, the President had approved the dispatch of a letter to the Prime Minister. The Secretary then read out the text of the letter.

With respect to possible dates, the Secretary said the President had to be in Washington for the visit of Sekou Toure, which terminated on October 28, and then could reach Paris the morning of the 29th, although it would be preferable for him to travel by day on the 29th, arriving that evening. Thus, there were two alternatives with respect to the timing of an early meeting if one assumed it were to take about three days. The first would be Friday, Saturday and Sunday (October 30-November 1) or beginning on Monday, November 2 and meet through the following Wednesday. Sir Harold believed that Parliament was scheduled to convene on October 20 but did not know whether it would remain continuously in session thereafter or whether it might adjourn for a week in preparation for the debate on the Queen's message. If it were to be in session, it would be easier for Messrs. Macmillan and Lloyd to have the proposed Western Summit meeting held over a weekend.

Sir Harold said London wished him to say that they had absolutely no protocol feelings about de Gaulle's state visits to London and Washington. They would in fact be happy to have him come to Washington first if that would help advance preparations for a Summit meeting. He asked whether

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the Secretary thought it might be useful for the Prime Minister to send a message to de Gaulle in support of the President's proposal for an early Western Summit. The Secretary replied affirmatively and the British Ambassador said he would so recommend to London.

There was discussion of the problem of Berlin in which the Secretary inquired whether the Foreign Secretary had a paper prepared on an interim agreement. He said we were working on one and it would be useful if we might exchange such papers. Sir Harold said he would undertake to find out whether such a paper had been prepared. The Secretary also referred to an early statement of Mr. Lloyd's that if he remained in office, he would want to study the possibility of a longer-term settlement for Berlin. The President was deeply concerned with the problem of developing an allied position on the issue of a long-term settlement. Sir Harold said he had no evidence that such a study was under way but he would ask.

The Secretary said we would wish to exchange views here in Washington on the subjects which might come up at a Western Summit meeting and mentioned Berlin and disarmament. Sir Harold mentioned NATO and thought there might be some other important questions of domestic allied interest which the Western Heads of Government would wish to discuss when they met. In this connection, the Secretary recalled that Mr. Lloyd had at one time proposed military talks regarding more effective use of our respective resources and thought this was a subject that might well come up.

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